



CRIT triumphs on key California land issue

Ruling protects Tribal lands from possible seizure through litigation

It took several years and even word from the U.S. Supreme Court, but the Colorado River Indian Tribes have prevailed in important property rights litigation concerning Tribal land in California.

Known as the “Western Area Boundary Dispute” a number of lessees of tribal land in California had challenged CRIT’s ownership of the land in question.

After the group lost in the U.S. District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, it appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court in an attempt to take over ownership.

“History has taught us how many Native Americans, including CRIT, had their land seized over the years. That is why the Tribe fought so hard when certain people tried to do this again to us.”

— Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr.

The Supreme Court notified the parties in early March that it would not be hearing or considering the case.

In essence, the U.S. District Court and then the Ninth Circuit ruled that the lessees could not challenge CRIT’s right to the land in federal court, exhausting the legal options for those trying to take over the lands from the Tribe.

According to CRIT Tribal Chairman Daniel

Eddy, Jr. this was a landmark victory for the Tribe because of the key principles involved — Tribal land ownership and sovereignty.

“History has taught us how many Native Americans, including CRIT, had their land seized over the years,” he said. “That is why the Tribe fought so hard when certain people tried to do this again to us.

“Native Americans have had quite enough of land grabs,” Eddy, Jr. said.

School program teaches culture



Nikayla Martin shows her classmates traditional Mohave dress as part of a cooperative learning center program developed between the CRIT Education Department and LaPera School.

Cooperative effort between school, CRIT sparks interest in students

No one needs to tell Nikayla Martin that culture makes academics more interesting.

When she found out her class, Mrs. Ray’s fourth grade class at LaPera School, was doing a unit on the Mohave, she brought her traditional dress.

While the students sang a bird song, she showed some of the other girls dance steps. After that, she sang a Mohave song.

“This is a lullaby,” she explained. “I learned it when I was little. I hope I can remember.” She then sang it perfectly two

times to rousing class applause.

“It is important for the kids to be involved in the local Native culture,” said Nikayla’s teacher, Mrs. Ray. “Besides, they are always excited. It is also part of school improvement plan.”

Nikayla’s spontaneous sharing was prompted in part by cooperative learning centers developed by Dennis Patch and the Education Department to teach school children about the traditions of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Research shows that children learn better when a chosen theme is explored through

Please see EDUCATION, Page 6

Governor focuses on Tribal issues

Napolitano talks with *Manataba Messenger* about policy goals

Governor Janet Napolitano is scheduled to visit the area on April 2nd, just as this issue of *Manataba Messenger* is to be delivered to tribal members.

In anticipation of her visit, the *Manataba Messenger* interviewed Governor Napolitano to hear her thoughts on some of the issues Native Americans in Arizona and CRIT specifically face. Here were her thoughts:

Q: You have just completed your first year as Governor — what did you feel was your biggest accomplishment?

A: One of the most visible accomplishments has been the success of the quarterly tribal summits.

To my knowledge we are the only state engaging in this kind of regular and in-depth leader-to-leader communication between the Governor and leaders from Indian Tribes and Nations.

Please see NAPOLITANO, Page 4

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News, information from your Tribal Government

Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr.
Vice Chairman Russell Welsh
Tribal Council: Cindy Homer (Secretary),
Eldred Enas (Treasurer), Dennis Patch,
Daphne Hill-Poolaw, Ray Aspa, Sr.,
Herman “TJ” Laffoon, Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

Land dispute victory a critical one for Tribes

History has a way of repeating itself. That’s why, when a group tried to challenge CRIT’s ownership of an area of tribal land in California, the Tribe had no choice to fight for its land. Native Americans have seen enough land grabs in their history, and this dispute, known as the “Western Area Boundary Dispute,” was no different. The case was about more than just some lessees of the land who wanted it for their own. It was about two of the most important principles to Native Americans in today’s world — sovereignty and tribal land ownership. CRIT fought the efforts of those lessees to take over the lands in several courts of law on the federal level. That fight finally culminated in early March, when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case. Their decision effectively meant that federal courts could not intervene to take over tribal lands. It was a great ruling for CRIT and for all tribes, because we can never be sure when other land grabs will pop up again. After all, history does have a way of repeating itself. And if it does, CRIT will fight for its rights once again.

We want your involvement in Manataba Messenger content

This is the third issue of the revised *Manataba Messenger*, and each one has been better than the last. However, we still have a long way to go before we have a publication that truly reflects the day-to-day life of CRIT members. That’s where you come in. We need your help to make the *Manataba Messenger* the best it can possibly be. Here are just a few ways you can become a part of our Tribal newspaper:

- Write a letter to the editor if you have a comment on anything that has been covered so far.
- If you have an idea for an article or feature, let us know!
- The *Messenger* accepts advertising from businesses of all kinds. This is the first issue where ads have run.
- We accept announcements of weddings, anniversaries, graduations, obituaries and other family occasions.
- And finally, see Page 8 for details on the first-ever *Manataba Messenger* photo contest. It’s open to all Tribal members.

We hope you have enjoyed the new *Manataba Messenger* so far. But we also hope you’ll work with us, and let us know how we can make the publication even better for all Tribal members.

Your Tribal Council at work for you

EDITOR’S NOTE — Over the next few issues, the *Manataba Messenger* will profile the nine members of the CRIT Tribal Council.

Chairman works to continue improvements

After 24 years, Eddy Jr. says there’s still much work to be done

It’s easy to tell when you talk to him that Daniel Eddy Jr. has been around the block a couple of times in Tribal government. “Once you get started working on things, there’s always something to do,” he said. “As long as the people want me to be here, I think we can accomplish a lot.” And a lot has been accomplished since Eddy Jr. first joined the Tribal Council in 1980. He has served as Chairman since 1988, and has been a part of many of the changes that have shaped how Tribal life is lived today. “The most rewarding part for me has just been the progress the Tribe has made over the years,” he said. “From the acquisition of key businesses on the reservation to the general improvement of tribal services over the years. “But there’s always room for



Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr.

improvement,” he said. Eddy Jr. said that one of the most important issues the Tribe faces today is the completion of efforts to acquire the La Paz Lands, which were wrongfully taken from the tribe decades ago. “It’s been an issue for years, but we’re now finally getting things moving,” he said. He also said that the Tribe must continue to focus on improving housing for Tribal members. “But housing is not only an issue for Tribal members, it’s an issue throughout the community,” he said. “There’s just not a lot of housing in Parker, and we need to find ways to address that.” As Tribal Chairman, Eddy Jr. is involved in countless meetings and committees as part of his oversight of 43 different Tribal departments. So when he has time away, he said he enjoys hunting, fishing and spending weekends at home. But even after 24 years on Tribal Council, he shows no signs of slowing down. “I like the challenges that come along and being able to help people,” Eddy Jr. said. And he said that members of the Tribe should continue to expect strong results from the Tribal Council. “They should know that their Tribal government continues to strive to meet the goals of providing good service to our membership,” he said.

Councilwoman focuses on members’ health

Welsh-Tahbo encourages members to get involved in tribal government

Valerie Welsh-Tahbo has found her first term on Tribal Council to be a tremendous learning experience. “This has been all about learning what needs to be done to help our Tribe,” the councilwoman said. Helping tribal members is why she decided to follow in the footsteps of her father, the late Darwin T. Welsh, Sr., and run for Tribal Council. And since then, she’s become particularly focused on the health of Tribal members. Welsh-Tahbo was diagnosed with diabetes about a year ago, and has lost a significant amount of weight. The disease is so common on the reservation that she said it’s a key reason why the Tribal government must focus on health issues. “We need to take care of our elders, those who have had substance abuse problems, and those who need care after medical problems,” she said. She said that she has always tried to help in the Tribal community in any way possible. “I’ve always been involved in the community and have always been interested in the functions and operations of Tribal government,” she said. “I just wanted to find ways to give back and help people.” Another way Welsh-Tahbo would like to help people is to encourage an improvement in Tribal housing, one area where she is

currently working as a member of the Tribe’s housing corporation board. “We’ve been working hard, but it still doesn’t seem like we are near where we need to be,” she said.



Councilwoman Welsh-Tahbo

She also said the Tribal government should work to be more cohesive in its services to members, as well as working to maintain sovereignty in land, water and farming issues. And if she had to give tribal members two pieces of advice, the first would be to become more involved. “I encourage people to come to our Tribal Council meetings on the second Saturday of each month — which we call ‘The People’s Day,’” she said. “They’re our eyes and ears out there and really know what should be of concern to us.” Her second piece of advice would be a little more personal, but is based on her own experiences. “I hope people will make sure to find time to walk and exercise,” she said. “It’s the best way to prevent diabetes, which we’re so at risk for, and improve our health.”

Focus on...History & Preservation

Poston restoration efforts continue

Work is progressing on the Poston Restoration Project, with five committees created in an October 2003 Workshop moving forward on different fronts.

The goal of the Poston Restoration Project is to restore the Poston Internment Camps, where Japanese Americans were held during World War II and colonized tribal members were housed after, and make them an educational tool and museum.

The first priority is to seek funding for the Poston Restoration Project. The committees will meet in May 2004 to develop strategies for seeking grants from foundations and other sources.

Individuals serving on the five committees represent members from the CRIT community, former Poston internees, educators and state historic preservation officers. The committees consist of individuals with diverse skills and valuable experiences.

Most recently, the Infrastructure/Construction team visited the Poston Camp I site to assess the current situation, and the History/Interpretation committee interviewed Bob Johnson of the Del Webb Foundation and Poston II Navajo Colonist Mae Redhouse. A tour of the barrack Redhouse first stayed in and relocated to her current home was videotaped, and interviews will be ongoing. Other tribal members are encouraged to share experiences or memories of the Poston Camps.

The Public Relations/Communication



The Poston Restoration Project team. First row: Debbie Kawahara, Ellie Nagai-Rothe, Ruth Okimoto, Don Estes, Jennifer Cox, Susan Hasegawa, Gary Witherspoon. Second row: Ron Charles, Gloria McVey, Tak Kohatsu, Jim Namba, Marlene Shigekawa, Gene Takahashi, Ben Segawa, Gertrude B. Van Fleet. Third row: Ted Kobata, Kimberly Harris. Last row: Sid Arase, Carol Griffith, Jon Villalobos, Leon Uyeda, Dennis Patch, Tomi Nagai-Rothe, Jay Cravath, Jim Garrison, James Lotts, Jim Kobata. Not pictured: Amelia Flores, Ron Moore, Anthony Veerkamp, Denis Viri.

committee is currently working to establish a website for the project, develop promotional materials for distribution and has represented the project at various functions. The Outreach/Education committee has applied for a California Civil Liberties Public Education Program grant to produce a short documentary video. They hope to receive a response soon.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer, call the Education Department at (928) 669-8831.

New preserve project to improve slough



The 12-Mile Slough, located south of Parker, will be restored to its natural vegetation. The CRIT senior center is in the top right of this photo.

One of the next big projects to be tackled by the Ahakhav Preserve is actually a little ways away from the rest of the preserve lands. The preserve will be restoring the 12-Mile Slough, south of Parker and next to the CRIT senior center, to its natural vegetation.

Jon Villalobos of the preserve said the slough, which is created by a high groundwater table, will be restored along with approximately 80 acres around it.

The restoration efforts will include integrating the slough with the nearby senior center, and may include a garden, walking paths or other features for seniors to use.

“We want to show great respect for the seniors and make sure it is a great area for them,” he said.

The preserve staff will be working with the CRIT Environmental Protection Office, which has a grant for revegetation of the area. The slough currently has several ramadas along it, which will be rehabilitated for tribal use.

Additionally, a two-acre RV park is near the slough, but it has fallen into disrepair. The park may be restored so that it can be a money-making venture for the Tribe.

The other major preserve project underway is called CRIT 9, and is located by the preserve offices and park south of Parker.

To date, 90 of the 135 acre of the parcel have been replanted with native vegetation, totalling more than 13,450 new Cottonwood, Willow and Mesquite trees.

Upcoming Events

Entertainment coming to Blue Water Resort & Casino

- April 15th & 16th are the dates for the 3rd Annual BlueWater Resort & Casino Indian Golf Tournament. BlueWater Resort & Casino is the title sponsor and host property for this Golf Tournament. Last year 104 participants from 14 different tribes and four different states participated in the Golf Tournament. For more information or to sign up, contact Stewart Eddy at (928) 669-2121 or (928) 669-7908.
 - On April 17th & 18th, the resort will host the "BlueWater Resort & Casino Spring Regatta 2004." The event is the annual spring regatta for the Southern California Speedboat Club. Boat racers from all over the country will participate in this annual event. For more information on the BlueWater Resort & Casino Spring Regatta, contact Ross Wallach at 1 (800) 852-2676. More information on this event will be available at www.apbapwr.com.
 - From April 29th to May 1st, BlueWater will be the host and title sponsor for the Parker Open Golf Tournament. For more information on the Parker Open, contact Steve Benton at the Emerald Canyon Golf Course at (928) 667-3366.
 - The following acts will be appearing at the Dig Lounge in the coming weeks:
 - March 30-April 4, Sweet Surrender
 - April 6-11, Swift Kick
 - April 13-18, Party of Four
 - April 20-25, Fiddlin' Around
 - April 27-May 2, Ballroom BlitzThe Lounge hours are from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tuesday to Sunday.
 - On Thursday, April 22, Ricky Van Shelton will be in concert in the Bingo Concert Hall. Ricky began his career at 14 when his older brother enticed him to sign and play guitar with his band.
- In 1988 he won every major newcomer's award, then followed with the 1989 CMA's, Male Vocalist of the Year and 1990 & 1991 TNN/Music City News's Male Artist & Entertainer of the Year. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of show and are available at the Gift Shop.

CRIT members invited to mark Trail of Tears 10th Annual Run

In 1865 the U.S. Department of War attempted to remove the Hualapai from their ancestral homelands. In April of 1874 the Hualapai were gathered and forced to march to the La Paz Concentration Camp on the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

After a year of captivity, in April of 1875, reaching desperation, the surviving Hualapai undertook the arduous journey to return to their homelands. Ignoring orders from the local Indian Agent, the Army chose not to pursue them.

To commemorate this event the Hualapai Tribe holds a memorial three-day run starting at the original La Paz Concentration Camp site, covering 140 miles into Peach Springs. In coordination with CRIT, the Hualapai Tribe will hold a dedication ceremony at the La Paz site on April 20, and will start the run in the early morning hours of April 21.

The Hualapai Tribe invites CRIT tribal members to participate in the dedication ceremony. For details on this event please contact Pete Imus at (928) 769-2207 or coordinator@hualapai-tobacco.org.

Manataba Messenger Interviews...

Napolitano addresses Tribal issues statewide

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Dialogue and communication is the foundation of the government-to-government relationship we are trying to build. I want to hear directly from tribal leaders regarding their concerns and issues. Just this week, we completed a highly productive, full-day Tribal Summit on Transportation Issues, held at the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

Q: What are some of the highlights of what you want to accomplish during the Legislative Session?



Governor Janet Napolitano

A: Education of our children remains my highest priority. I've asked the state Legislature to fund full-day kindergarten, to ensure our children are reading by the time they enter the first grade.

Although most legislation specific to Tribal issues goes to the federal government, I believe the issues that affect our state —

education, forest health, jobs — are of tremendous interest to our Native American communities, and I will continue to fight for those issues.

Q: Are there any issues that may come up in this legislative session that will affect Tribes in Arizona?

A: Yes. There are always issues that arise in the legislature that may affect tribes and tribal members. Sometimes there are specific pieces of legislation centered only on Indian issues.

However, it is more common to have legislation that is general in nature but may impact tribal governments or tribal communities. Education issues are a good examples of this.

Q: What do you see as some of the biggest issues facing Tribes in Arizona?

A: Infrastructure is one of the most important issues facing Tribes in Arizona. Tribal lands need better homes and well-kept roads.

Q: You have a policy advisor on Tribal Affairs. What types of issue does this position advise you on?

A: Ann Marie Downes is my policy advisor for

Tribal affairs, and she is tasked with responding to any matter involving Tribal Nations.

Anne Marie also works with policy advisors in many areas — including the environment, education, health care and more — to be certain Tribal issues are included in those types of discussions.

Q: With 22 federally recognized Tribes in the state, how do you keep up with all of their differing issues?

A: Each Tribe has its own distinct needs and issues, and it is difficult to stay on top of all of them. That's exactly why I've convened the Tribal Summits four times every year.

Participating in the Summits gives me the tremendous opportunity to meet, face-to-face, with Tribal leadership.

Q: If a tribal member would like to contact your office, what should they do?

A: Members may contact their Tribal leadership, or you may contact Ann Marie Downs directly by writing her at 1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. It is important to me to hear your opinions on any and all issues facing state and Tribal governments.



Mother's Day
Is May
9th!



Wishing all Tribal Members
a Happy Mother's Day!

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FREE delivery available
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High school students learn CRIT traditions

The students of Rick Chance’s Parker High School CRIT social studies class recently got their hands dirty as part of their lessons about the Tribe and its history.

Under the guidance of Wilena Fisher (Social Services), they learned to make a Mohave bowl. The students were taught the traditional technique of coiling to create their pottery. Ms. Fisher first explained the old way of gathering, crushing and cleaning clay to prepare it.

Students, however, used red stoneware due to limited time. Once their pots are fired, Ms. Fisher will assist those interested in painting traditional designs.

The pottery lesson is just one way students in the class are learning about traditional CRIT practices. An ongoing class project is the maintenance of the traditional garden. Using the expertise of the University of Arizona Extension Office, students are learning the Native way of gardening.

Seeds were donated from Native Seeds and Search, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving historic plant species that grew wild or were propagated by the first Americans.

Don’t look for rows and furrows in this garden, though. The old way was to plant in circular mounds. Included among the produce



Students in the Parker High School CRIT social studies class made these traditional Mohave bowls and pottery.

are Hopi and Navajo corn, Mohave/Chemehuevi beans, squash and melons.

Larry Eddy introduced the unit on the Chemehuevi by telling of the tribal history and stories. As with the Mohave, Navajo and Hopi, the class spent a week studying the life ways of this tribe, so named from the Mohave word tcamuweiva, or “mixed with all.”

Students will soon begin exploring the tribal history. They are also at work on individual semester projects with community members acting as mentors. To be presented in May, these include “Oral History,” “The Indian Garden,” “The Trading Post,” “Mohave Beading,” and others.

Resolution modifies Tribal membership rolls

The CRIT Tribal Council passed the following resolution in its March 9, 2004 meeting:

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Indian Tribes is a federally recognized Tribe, duly organized with a Tribal Governing body, known as the Tribal Council, according to the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article II, Section 1.a of the Constitution and Article VI, Section 3, of the Government Code 83-04 of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, a Current Membership Roll has been prepared by Tribal Officials; and

WHEREAS, the names of all persons who are deceased and all persons who have relinquished, in writing, their membership in the Colorado River Indian Tribes, or any other Tribe, shall be noted on the roll and the names of persons whose applications for enrollment have been approved by the Tribal Council shall be added to the Current Membership Roll;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code 83-04, the Enrollment Committee has made its decision with respect to the recommended semi-annual certification of the Current Membership Roll, Tribal Council has reviewed said decision and all pertinent material;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council hereby certifies the Semi-Annual Current Membership Roll to include the above certified Membership Roll supplements;

The foregoing resolution was on March 9, 2004 duly approved by a vote of 5 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining, by the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, pursuant to authority vested in it by Section 1, Article II of the Constitution and By laws of the Tribes, ratified by the Tribes on March 1, 1975 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1975, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (46 Stat. 984). This resolution is effective the date of its adoption.

COLORADO RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

By Daniel Eddy, Jr., Chairman
Sylvia Homer, Treasurer
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Tribal Chairman and Secretary, or their designated representatives, are authorized to execute any documents necessary to implement this action.

New Applicants, Article II, Section 1.b, R-174-03, dated July 21, 2003

1. Anthony Taylor Ameelyenan, 2. Rylan Justin Burton, 3. Isabella Nicole Dale, 4. Justin Timothy Dick, 5. Nathaniel James Dick, 6. Olivia Elizabeth Esquerra, 7. India Ulall Sahri Fisher, 8. Kayla Gailynn Fisher, 9. Jazmyn Lymari Goodwin, 10. Elijah Jay Gonzalez, 11. Taylor Ashton Heredia-Aspa, 12. Julianna Rogue Hernandez, 13. Lia Patricia Kooyaquaptewa, 14. Kaylee Anne Krause, 15. Stefanie Louise Leon, 16. Elizabeth Dee Lloyd, 17. Alice Delores McCabe, 18. Vanessa Yvonne Reyes, 19. Elizabeth Dee Silva, 20. Nickolas Paul Silva, 21. Shayla Rochelle Tahbo, 2.. Dylan John Wilkinson.

Deceased

1. Sue Ann Montague-Thompson, July 2, 2003; 2. Mary Lou Brown, July 5, 2003; 3. Cruz G. Leivas, July 21, 2003; 4. Jan-Michael Drake Johnson, July 26, 2003; 5. Kevin Neal Etsitty, September 6, 2003; 6. Luke Milford Patch, Sr., September 23, 2003; 7. Brian Little, September 29, 2003; 8. Ira Russell, October 7, 2003; 9. Orlando Laffoon, November 7, 2003; 10. Eva Louella McCord, November 8, 2003; 11. George D. White, Sr., November 11, 2003; 12. Jennie Lou Fass-Miller, November 15, 2003; 13. James Harper, Jr., November 25, 2003; 14. Eldridge Drennan, December 1, 2003; 15. Alberta Anderson-Thomas, December 4, 2003; 16. Gloria Nopah-Gonzales, December 6, 2003; 17. Dwight Lomayesva, Sr., December 17, 2003.

Relinquishments

1. Stephen Burton, R-163-03, Dated July 21, 2003; 2. Darin Wayne Short, R-164-03, Dated July 21, 2003; 3. Lone Arrow Chester Vest, R-165-03, Dated July 21, 2003.

CRIT BRIEFS

News from around the Reservation

Head Start begins recruitment of children for 2004-2005 session

By Caroline Alcaida

Head Start Director

The CRIT Head Start Program began recruitment of children for its Fall 2004 program in February.

Interested parents may contact the program by calling (928) 662-4311.

The Head Start Program is a federally funded program for 3- and 4-year-old children from economically disadvantaged families.

The program is comprehensive, serving the needs of the whole child, and parents are looked to as the primary educator of their children in cooperation with Head Start staff.

Head Start children receive health and developmental screenings as they begin the program, and the staff will work with parents to address any concerns that are raised during the screening process.

The program also provides ongoing assessments of the students as they progress through Head Start.

Parents interested in the program must submit proof of income, such as a paycheck stub, W2 form, or financial assistance statement from other government agencies. They must also submit a birth certificate for their child or other proof of age.

Eligible children must be at least three years old and no older than four years old by August 31, 2004 for the upcoming program.

Parents who have children who are newborn to three years old are also encouraged to bring the children in for Head Start screenings.

Head Start and the public school system want to screen the children as soon as possible to identify any potential problems the children may face in the educational process. Specialists are available to address any concerns the parents may have.

Credit & Finance Department available to serve members

The CRIT Credit & Finance Department is available to assist tribal members with home ownership or improvement of existing homes on the reservation through a tribal lending program.

During the past two years, approximately 20 tribal members have been approved for loans by the department.

In addition to housing loans, the Credit & Finance Department also provides loans to tribal members interested in starting a business on the reservation.

The department also has plans to open a resource center in the coming months to help those interested in starting such a business.

The department and its programs are designed to operate in a similar manner as a bank, including an application and approval process.

Applications are evaluated on the borrower’s ability to repay the loans, and on their credit history.

Interested parties may contact Laura Glass, Credit Officer for the department, at (928) 669-1287 for more information.

New BlueWater GM aims to improve casino/resort experience

CRIT has tapped a seasoned and successful veteran of the Arizona Indian gaming industry to lead the BlueWater Resort & Casino to new levels of success.

Robert Kingsley joined the BlueWater team in early March as General Manager/Enterprise Director of the resort and casino.

Kingsley served as CEO and General Manager of the Fort McDowell Casino from 1993 to 2001, including during the time a new facility was built.

“We want to work together to make the facility into a true casino/resort, one that rivals those you might find in Las Vegas or Laughlin.”

— Robert Kingsley
Casino General Manager/
Enterprise Director

In the short term, Kingsley said he has three main goals for the next fiscal year of operations at BlueWater:

- Improve the technology of the slot machines at the resort, including computer monitoring of slots and upgrading older machines with newer ones.

Kingsley said the Tribe hopes to replace 326 slot machines in the next year by doing a certain number each month, and to increase variety by having machines from all major slot manufacturers.

“ That way, when guests come to play here, they’re more likely to find their favorite machines,” he said.

- Get blackjack operations up and running as soon as possible.
- While the first blackjack hand at BlueWater will likely not be dealt for a few months still, the process is well underway.

Equipment for blackjack takes about two to three months to arrive, but the casino recently began advertising for blackjack dealers and other employees with an internal job posting on the reservation.

Kingsley said he wants as many Tribal members as possible to be a



Robert Kingsley is the new General Manager/Enterprise Director of the BlueWater Resort & Casino.

part of blackjack operations, including as blackjack dealers.

- Expanding convention and meeting facilities. Right now, when larger events come to BlueWater, they sometimes spill over to the Bingo Room, causing a shutdown in Bingo operations.

Kingsley said the goal is to make sure that Bingo operations are never shut down or inconvenienced in the future.

All in all, he said that the facility has a promising future, with everyone working as a team.

“ It’s going to take time and a lot of hard work, but we can make this facility the best it can be,” he said.

EDUCATION,

From Page 1

various subjects.

In this case, the history and culture of the Mohave Indians was studied through five centers: Reading, Writing, Storytelling, Music and History.

The students were divided into five teams and rotated through the centers working cooperatively.

At the Reading Center, for example, the team chose different stories to read and did a short report. At the History Center, they put on headphones and listened to a radio drama about the Mohave, recorded by Dennis Patch, Robert Fisher and Stacey Amador.

Then the students answered

questions about what they had heard. After three days going through the centers, they got together to sing the songs they had learned and read the stories they had written.

Nikayla and her classmates will perform their Mohave songs again at the LaPera School BBQ on Friday, April 16 from 5-7 p.m.

The CRIT Education Department is currently at work on Learning Centers for the other CRIT tribes. Various elders are being consulted to make certain of cultural and seasonal appropriateness.

If you would like your child’s teacher to take advantage of these and other educational programs, send a note to school or call the Education Department at (928) 669-8831.

Anniversaries & Announcements



Ron & Lillian Charles celebrated their 25th Anniversary on March 10, 2004.

The Manataba Messenger welcomes submissions for anniversaries, wedding announcements, obituaries, graduations and other events. For contact information, see the information below.

2nd Annual
Hualapai Tobacco Project's
Tobacco & Health
Youth Conference
2004

"Pushing Toward My Dream"

July 7-9, 2004
Sheraton Four Points
Phoenix, AZ

Conference & Registration Information:

Pete Imus, Coordinator
Hualapai Tobacco Project
P.O. Box 397
Peach Springs, AZ 86434
Phone: 928-769-2207
Fax: 928-769-2586
Email: coordinator@hualapai-tobacco.org

Conference Location & Lodging Information:

Sheraton Four Points Barcelo Hotel
Phoenix Metrocenter
10220 N. Metro Parkway East
Phoenix, AZ 85051
1-800-325-3535
or
602-997-5900

When making a reservation mention you are with:
"Hualapai Tobacco Project"
Group Rate of \$55.00 plus 12.07% tax.
Cut-off date to make reservations is June 16, 2004

- Conference Activities -

Wednesday July 7, 2004
8:00PM – 11:00PM
DJ Dance Reception

Thursday July 8, 2004
&
Friday July 9, 2004
8:00AM-5:00PM
Conference Sessions
Sessions Topics Include

- Commercial & Traditional Tobacco
- Health Topics
- Leadership

Thursday July 8, 2004
7:00PM-8:00PM
Cultural Dance

Registration is Free – Ages 13 to 18
Registration Deadline is June 15, 2004
All groups are responsible for own travel costs and arrangements.

**Conference Funded By
The Hualapai Tribe**

Protect yourself, horses from West Nile

By Linda Masters
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
La Paz County Office

West Nile Virus, which can affect horses and people, was detected in La Paz County in 2003 and is expected to be detected in Mosquito populations or in horses this coming year. It is not too early to think about vaccinating horses against this deadly virus.

Mosquitoes that have fed on infected birds can spread the virus. Individuals can help spot the virus by reporting dead bird sightings.

Birds can die from a number of causes and people should not be overly concerned if they find a dead sparrow in their yard.

Suspensions should be raised if die-offs are noted among larger birds like jays, crows and ravens, especially later in the year when mosquitoes are more prevalent.

If you find a bird that has recently died and shows no visible signs of injury, the bird should be reported as a bird die-off.

Such die-offs should be reported as follows: On the CRIT reservation, call CRIT Environmental Protection at 662-4336 or the CRIT Fish and Game Office at 669-9285. Off the reservation, reports can be made to the La Paz County Health Department at 669-1100.

If it will be some time before an official can retrieve a dead bird, it can be bagged and refrigerated (but NOT frozen). Although there is no current evidence that WNV can be transmitted directly from birds to people or between infected people, do not handle dead birds with your bare hands.

The most common signs of infection in horses are wobbly gait, stumbling, leg weakness and lying down.

West Nile Virus and humans

For most people, there is little chance of serious illness from a mosquito bite. It is estimated that less than one percent of mosquitoes carry West Nile virus, and less than one percent of the people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will become seriously ill.

Persons over the age of 50 are at higher risk for serious illness. Symptoms would occur 3 to 15 days after the mosquito bite. Most commonly, the mild cases of a West Nile Virus infection will include a slight fever and/or headache.

Less commonly, more severe infections, including encephalitis, are marked by high fever, headache, confusion, muscle aches and weakness. Very severe infections can be fatal.

If you develop signs of encephalitis seek medical care immediately.

An equine West Nile vaccine is available for horses at Parker Veterinarian offices. The vaccine requires an initial vaccination and a booster 4-6 weeks later.

Owners should vaccinate well before warm weather brings out mosquitoes. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing or slow-moving water such as streams or creeks. Weeds, tall grass, and bushes provide an outdoor home for mosquitoes.

Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property by disposing of cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or discarded tires.

CRIT BRIEFS II

News from around the Reservation

CRIT Auto clarifies vehicle, service policies for tribal members

The CRIT Auto Shop would like to remind tribal members of the following:

- Motorpool vehicles will only be given out for funerals on the CRIT reservation and for immediate family members. Those requests must be verified, and if you have been placed on a revoked list, you may no longer use the program.

- To order auto parts, call Issac Sharpe at (928) 669-1376.

To reserve a motorpool van for a funeral on the reservation, call Thalla Paddock at (928) 669-1377.

To schedule service, call Winstill Humeumptewa, Sr. at (928) 669-1379.

For other issues related to the auto shop, call Fernando Flores, Sr. at (928) 669-1375.

- The shop would like to welcome Garrick Puhuyesva, who joined the shop in late January as a car wash attendant.

Earned Income Tax Credit may benefit Tribal members at tax time

The *Indian Country Today* newspaper, a nationwide publication addressing Native American issues, recently reported on an important piece of information for those filing taxes.

According to the paper, Tribal members earning low to moderate incomes are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Depending on your income, you may be able to receive a refund from the federal government, even if you don't ordinarily receive a refund at tax time.

The paper writes that if you lived with two or more children in 2003 and your family earned less than \$33,692, the EITC refund could be up to \$4,204. If you lived with one child and your income was below \$29,666, your EITC refund could be up to \$2,547. And if you had no children and earned less than \$11,230, your EITC refund could be several hundred dollars.

In addition to these income guidelines, the paper reports, you will still have to meet a few eligibility tests to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. A qualifying child, for instance, must meet standards of relationship, age and residency.

The income must be earned — it can't be welfare benefits, for instance. On the other hand, non-taxable compensation, such as day-care benefits that may be provided by an employer, doesn't have to be included in total income for purposes of claiming the EITC. The paper says the EITC doesn't cancel out other tax credits that may be available for children.

For a copy of the full article on the subject, visit the newspaper's web site at www.indiancountry.com/?1078238368.

CRIT Education Department to open for Parent-Student Nights

Parker School District has shared copies of its tutoring software, Orchid, with the CRIT Education Department. The Education Department will open its computer lab two evenings a week for tribal members to use the program. Please call CRIT Education at (928) 669-8831 if you are interested in participating. If there is active participation, the days of availability will be expanded.

Library educates on local, national levels



“Discovering Your Ancestors Genealogy” Seminar was held on February 5, 2004. Presenters included Sue Daily, head of the Genealogy Library of the Parker LDS Church, and Daphne Hill-Poolaw, director of CRIT Enrollment. Approximately 40 tribal and local community residents attended this seminar.

The CRIT Library and its staff played a role in this year's Public Library Association's 10th National Conference, held in Seattle, Washington on February 24-28, 2004.

More than 8,000 people came together to share ideas, conduct business, learn innovative business practices, and to network with library colleagues from all over the world.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes Library/Archives was featured in this year's conference under the “Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums: Preserving Our Language, Memory and Lifeways” program.

At this session presenters gave detailed examples of their local tribal archives, libraries, and museums and explained how and why

tribes have taken the opportunity to develop, collect, manage, and interpret their own unique tribal cultures.

CRIT Library Director Amelia Flores provided a Power Point presentation on CRIT's Library operations, services and projects.

Current On-going Computer Training

The CRIT Library hosts ongoing computer training classes, including Microsoft Office products such as Word, Excel and others. Classes are scheduled every Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m. in the library.

For more information, call the Library at (928) 669-1332.

Advertise In The Manataba Messenger



Now you can reach the 3,500 members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes directly. *Manataba Messenger*, the official publication of CRIT, is accepting advertising. It is distributed by mail to all members and at newsstands at prominent locations on the reservation. For more information or to find out ad rates, please call us at (928) 669-1233 or 669-1223.

Get your clicks, win cash in photo contest

Click, click, cha-ching. That’s what will happen if you win the *Manataba Messenger* Photo Contest. We’re looking for the best photo by a Tribal member of a Tribal member or event on the reservation. It could be funny, it could be in a picturesque setting, it could be traditional — it’s all up to the photographer. And what will you get for your great shot? How about cold, hard cash? First prize for the best photo in this contest will receive \$100. Second prize is \$50, and Third Prize is \$25. And, of course, your photo will be featured

in the next issue of the *Manataba Messenger*. To enter, simply send your photo to: Rose & Allyn ATTN: *Manataba Messenger* Photo Contest 7051 E. 5th Avenue Suite B Scottsdale, AZ 85251 Or you can e-mail the photo to critnews@aol.com. Only pictures taken by active tribal members will be considered in this contest. All entries must be received by May 15th, 2004 for publication in the June 1 issue of the *Manataba Messenger*. So go ahead, give it a shot. Best of luck — start clicking away!

Tribal member, wife start new business venture

Making people happy with flowers, chocolates, lotions and other gifts is the goal of a new business started by Tribal member Joe Martinez and his wife Eleanor. The two opened The Shrubbery, located on Arizona Avenue in downtown Parker, in November 2003. The store sells gifts and merchandise such as fresh flowers, lotions, chocolates, candles and even pet supplies — an area they plan to expand in the coming months. “The response has been great so far,” Eleanor Martinez said. “This is something we’ve wanted to do for a long time.”



The shop provides free delivery in La Paz County, Blythe and on the CRIT Reservation. For more information, call The Shrubbery at (928) 669-2542.

We Want To Hear From You!

The *Manataba Messenger* welcomes your input on stories and features. Do you know a Tribal member who has done good things in the community or helped out others in need? A child who has gotten good grades, or done something special in sports? A family that is starting a new business? We want to hear about it! Don’t be shy. If you have an idea, question, suggestion or anything else you’d like to see in the *Manataba Messenger*, call or write us...

Route 1, Box 23-B • Parker, AZ 85344
(928) 669-1233 or (928) 669-1223 • critnews@aol.com

Thank you for reading this issue of the *Manataba Messenger*!



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